

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above. This dispute was received on 5/10/03.

I. DISPUTE

Whether there should be reimbursement for psychiatric evaluation of records – 90825, psychiatric diagnostic interview - 90801, preparation of report – 90889 and individual psychotherapy – 90844 from 8/16/02 through 10/7/02 denied by the carrier on the basis of “A” – lack of preauthorization.

II. RATIONALE

Rule 134.600 (b)(1) states, “The insurance carrier is liable for all reasonable and necessary medical costs relating to the health care required to treat a compensable injury... when...

- (B) preauthorization of any health care listed in subsection (h) of this section was approved prior to providing the health care;”

Rule 134.600 (h) states, health care requiring preauthorization includes...(i)

- (4) all psychological testing and psychotherapy, repeat interviews, and biofeedback; except when any service is part of a preauthorized or exempt rehabilitation program;

The requestor submitted preauthorization letters verifying that psychological testing and biofeedback were preauthorized retrospectively on 4/10/03.

The report of 8/16/02 from the requestor states, “Clinical services provided: Clinical Interview, Behavioral Observation, Mental Status Examination, Psychosocial Assessment, Pain Drawing...” The requestor disputes that preauthorization was required for the 8/16/02 services because they did not consider the service “testing” but instead an intake interview.

This description of the services rendered on 8/16/02 indicate a “mental status examination” and therefore requires preauthorization. The preauthorization of 4/10/03 authorizes psychological testing, therefore, reimbursement is recommended for the services for psychiatric evaluation – 90825, psychiatric diagnostic interview - 90801, preparation of report – 90889 of 8/16/02.

The preparation of report – 90889 and individual psychotherapy – 90844 services of 10/4/02 and 10/7/02 were not preauthorized by the carrier. Instead the preauthorization is for psychological testing and biofeedback. Therefore, reimbursement is not recommended for these dates of service.

IV. DECISION & ORDER

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services within this request, the Division has determined that the requestor **is** entitled to reimbursement for psychiatric evaluation – 90825 preparation of report – 90889 and individual psychotherapy – 90844 in the amount of **\$480.00**. Pursuant to Sections 402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 the Division hereby **ORDERS** the Respondent to remit **\$480.00** plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the Requestor within 20 days receipt of this Order.

The above Findings, Decision and Order are hereby issued this 18th day of December 2003.

Noel L. Beavers
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

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